Electric Supply Schemes.

20. The Trivandrum Electric Supply Scheme, which is run on commercial lines, was working satisfactorily and was further developed during the year. The demand for power is on the increase and it is anticipated that a fifth generating set may have soon to be installed. The total length of the overhead mains was extended by 9·5 miles. The electric licensee at Kottayam was able to provide the local Municipal Council with street lights early in February last. A license for the supply of electrical energy at Nagercoil has been granted, and the investigation of the Alleppey electric supply scheme will soon be taken up. For some years past, the question of harnessing some of the many waterfalls in the State in order to generate cheap electrical energy has been engaging the attention of Government. The local schemes now in operation and those in contemplation will be helpful in popularising the use of electric power and may be scrapped when more comprehensive schemes capable of supplying power at cheaper rates are brought into operation. In Quilon, there seems to be a demand for electric power and there are a number of other towns which would also go in for such power if available at cheap rates. The advantages which will result to cottage industries and to factory industries from the supply of cheap power cannot be over-estimated. A rough survey of the sources of hydro-electric power in the State has been already made, and the time seems to have arrived for a detailed examination of a major scheme. The Government have sanctioned a detailed investigation of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme being carried out, and the necessary preliminaries for the work have already been commenced.

Railway.

21. The Chackai-Tampanur Railway Extension was opened for traffic on the 4th November, 1931. Inclusive of the expenditure of Rs. 5·06 lakhs on the Extension during 1106, the total outlay till the end of the year amounted to Rs. 16·22 lakhs, not taking into account the suspense heads aggregating Rs. 1·53 lakhs. The works have been almost completed, and it only remains to check the final bills and close the accounts. The preparation of the project estimates and plans of all the lines surveyed are under preparation, except of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil line which has been completed. While the working of the railway line from Shencotta to Trivandrum resulted in a net loss of Rs. 10,796 in 1105, there was a net profit of Rs. 26,498 in 1106.

Medical and Ayurveda.

22. The control of the Medical Department continued to be vested in the Administrative Board, Medical Services, first constituted in Dhanu 1101. Two lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons were newly entertained in the deparment and posted to the hospitals at Mavelikara and Kozhenchery. As an experimental measure, a tincture factory has been built in the General Hospital premises, the necessary machinery has been erected and the staff has begun work from the 1st Kumbham 1107. If the scheme proves a success financially and the quality of the

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drugs prepared is found satisfactory, the scope of the manufacture will be extended. Sanction has been accorded to the construction of an extra maternity ward for the Women and Children's Hospital, Trivandrum, and of a semi-permanent shed attached to the District Hospital, Kottayam. Funds have been provided for these two works which are considered urgent and the Chief Engineer will complete the buildings before the close of 1107. The Tiruvalla Municipal Council has undertaken to construct a maternity ward within the premises of the local hospital. The transfer of the Leper Asylum from Trivandrum has been taken up and the selection of a suitable site in central Travancore is engaging attention. The Public Works Department is investigating the construction of the approach road to the proposed site of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium to be established at Sengamal. Sites have been provided for the dispensary at Valiatura and for the proposed Women and Children's Hospital at Alleppey. Facilities were afforded for higher studies in medicine to an Assistant Surgeon who has proceeded to England; an acting Assistant Surgeon is undergoing training at his cost in the Tropical School of Medicine, Calcutta; and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon attached to the Bacteriological Laboratory was sent to Coonoor in Vrischikam 1107 to acquaint himself with the up-to-date methods of anti-rabic treatment. In the Ayurveda Department, the pay of the Inspector of Vaisdyasalas and that of the Principal of the Ayurveda College have been raised, the idea of the Ayurveda Advisory Board being abandoned and the Directorship of Ayurveda held in abeyance for the present. Under a new arrangement, the control of the Ayurveda hospital and pharmacy is vested in the Principal and the aided and recognised *vaidyasalas* alone are placed under the Inspector.

Public Health.

23. During 1106, small-pox appeared in an epidemic form in twenty taluks and caused 1,472 deaths, of which nearly one-third was in municipal areas, the heaviest mortality being in the taluks of Ambalapuzha, Trivandrum and Neyyattinkara and in the municipal towns of Alleppey and Neyyattinkara. Vaccination was pushed on with vigour and extra vaccinators were appointed in the affected areas. In exercise of the powers vested in them under Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Regulation, II of 1073, Government have just issued a set of temporary rules making vaccination compulsory in non-municipal areas. Proposals are also under consideration for enacting similarly rules relating to segregation and other preventive and remedial measures analogous to those now in force in municipal towns.

Dr. W. P. Jacocks, the representative of the Rockefeller Foundation, proceeded on six months' leave from September 1931 and Dr. K. Raman Tampi, Inspecting Medical Officer, was placed in charge. After the hookworm survey was completed, an intensive treatment campaign was organised as a temporary control measure and the whole State has been covered, except the taluks of Peermade and Devicolam and the estate areas. As many as 163,380 persons have been treated

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